

I concur with all of the statements authored by the Californian Deaf groups: The California Coalition Of Agencies Serving Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons (Donald Rosenkjar, President, California Association of the Deaf; Ray Trybus, PhD, CEO, Deaf Community Services of San Diego; Zibby Bayarsky, Director, Center on Deafness Inland Empire; Ed Kelly, Director, Orange County Deaf Equal Access Foundation; Patricia Hughes, PhD, CEO, Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness; Juliana Fjeld, Director, Tri County-GLAD; Rosemary W. Diaz, CEO, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center - Central California; Sheri A. Farinha, CEO, Northern California Center on Deafness; and Robert Roth, CEO, Deaf Counseling, Advocacy, & Referral Agency) for the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Docket 98-67.

I strongly believe that the seamless interoperability of the TRS should be provided for all deaf consumers. To conclude this I do believe all deaf consumers do really appreciate the fact that we are able to get any kind of TRS equipment for free. I was surprised to learn recently that Deaf Canadians do not have the same kind of TRS access as we do here in America.

However, we need to be on a par playing field with the hearing world especially when it comes to emergency situations.